

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A method for splicing MPEG-2 encoded transport streams to  
prevent decoder buffer underflow. Emulation of the transport  
stream prior to transmission determines whether a decoder underflow  
would occur after a splice proposed at a predetermined time. When  
a potential underflow is determined for a decoder buffer, null  
packets are deleted prior to the time proposed for transmission for  
the splice, and an earlier splice time is recomputed. A time delay  
is added to presentation time stamp and the decoding time stamp. A  
10 relationship between the respective components involved is  
described to calculate the null packets to be deleted as well as to  
calculate the time delay to be added to a presentation time stamp  
and to a decoding time stamp, whereby decoder buffer underflow is  
prevented.